

10/680,834

ENCLOSURE (A)

AMENDMENT (B) CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[1]] 18 wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback walls have at least in some places their surface area increased by having raised surface features thereon.

10 3. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the inner surfaces have at least in some areas, corrugations or undulations formed thereon.

4. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the corrugations or undulations form peaks extending substantially parallel to the base

15 15. of the fireback.

5. (currently amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[1]] 18, wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback slope inwardly at an angle of between 15-25 degrees of arc from the vertical.

20 6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

25 8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the fireback is formed as a single refractory cement casting.

5 12. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the fireback is formed as a single refractory cement casting.

13. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the base portion of the fireback from its base to a height substantially level with the fire bed
10 may be vertical.

14. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the base portion of the fireback from its base to a height substantially level with the fire bed may be vertical.

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15. (currently amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim [[1]], 18 wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback are of generally frustoconical shape and are semi-circular in horizontal cross-section with the fireback opening being formed on the diameter thereof.

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16. (previously presented) A fireback as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the inner surfaces of the fireback are of a generally pyramidal shape.

17. (currently amended) A fireback as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the
25 fireback has a polygonal base having at least six the inner surfaces of the fireback
form substantially one half of a pyramid based on a polygon having six or eight or
ten sides with the fireback opening being formed on a centre line of the base.

18. (new) A refractory fireback for use in domestic open fireplaces and which in use surrounds a fire bed and which extends upwardly to a throat which in use connects with a chimney, the fireback having walls with inner surfaces forming one of a generally frustoconical and pyramidal shape with all said inner surfaces sloping steadily inwardly from a height substantially at the level of the firebed to the top of the fireback to decrease continuously at a steady rate with increasing height the cross sectional area within the inner surfaces of the fireback from a larger area substantially at the level of the fire bed to a smaller area at the top of the fireback in use adjacent the throat.

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19. (new) A fireback as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the inner surfaces of the lower portions of the walls below the level of the firebed are either vertical or an extension of the sloping surfaces.

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